

JLC Position Paper  
**Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children**

1. **OBJECTIVE:** To enact HB395, supporting the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children
  
2. **BACKGROUND:**
  - Military families encounter significant challenges in the education of their children due to frequent relocations in performance of service to our Nation.
  - Military children experience numerous relocations during their K-12 education. On average, this involves attending 6 to 9 different schools between grades K-12.
  - Military families face numerous challenges related to their child's education, including issues related to enrollment, eligibility, placement, and graduation requirements.
  - Lack of documents related to educational records, immunizations, etc. can prevent timely enrollment until the documents are received by the gaining school system. This has a negative impact on a military child's continued education/graduation.
  
3. **DISCUSSION:**
  - The Council of State Governments (CSG), in cooperation with the Department of Defense, proposed the implementation of an Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children (the Compact).
  - The Compact creates a uniform policy at the state/local level for transfers of military children between participating school systems. For example, the Compact allows for the expeditious transfer of required records by permitting unofficial records to be hand carried between school systems. This allows enrollment until the losing school system forwards the official records by mail or electronic means.
  - The Compact creates a State Council to provide coordination and address compliance.
  - Ten states have adopted the Compact, but Virginia has not yet adopted the Compact.
  - The CSG estimates the cost of participating in the Compact at \$1 per military student.
  - The CSG put the number of Virginia military students at 78,609 as of June 2006.
  - HB395 (2008, Cole) would commit Virginia to the Compact.
    - HB395 passed the House (99-0).
    - HB395 was continued to 2009 in the Senate Finance Committee.
  - Both the Virginia Military Advisory Council and the Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council have voted to adopt the Compact in their 2009 Objectives.
  
4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and the General Assembly enact HB395, enabling Virginia to participate in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children.